apex Energy UK

Installation & User Manual

Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit

Single Phase

Made in Britain

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Introduction

This Installation & User Manual covers the installation and use of the Apex Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit.

The incoming voltage to a property will vary around the country but by law it can be between 216V and 253V, according to current European Legislation ESQCR 2002. However, sudden voltage surges can damage electronic equipment such as computers, washing machine controllers and motion detectors such as passive infrared (PIR).

All domestic electrical equipment is designed to work within a range of 207V and 253V if it complies with European Conformity CE. But, critically, the optimum and most efficient supply voltage for these appliances is 220V.

When the supply voltage exceeds 220V, wasted power can be generated, as both heat and vibration; this could significantly reduce the life span and efficiency of the equipment.

Household loads that will deliver energy savings are those that are known as *voltage dependent loads*. Appliances that will benefit from Voltage optimisation are typically:

- Fridge and Freezer motors;
- Washing machine and dishwasher motors;
- Garage door & Gate motors;
- Central heating and Gas Boiler pump motors;
- Vacuum cleaner motors;
- Open loop resistive circuits such as hairdryers;
- LCD TV's;
- Games consoles;
- Audio systems;
- Microwave cookers;
- Incandescent lamps, Compact Fluorescent lamps, Fluorescent tubes, Halogen Lighting indoor and outdoor.

*Savings may vary between manufacturers.

In addition to energy saving*, the Apex VO unit will also protect your appliances from harmful over voltages and spikes that can significantly reduce the electrical life of sensitive electronic equipment.

The Voltage Optimiser has a dedicated electronic control unit (ECU) which intelligently and constantly monitors all the parameters, such as incoming and outgoing supply voltage, load, current, temperature, even its own performance, ensuring the unit always delivers the optimum performance to the premises. The voltage optimiser will switch in and out of circuit depending on the algorithm of conditions.
It even incorporates an internal energy save mode so it is perfectly normal for the unit to be in bypass mode (single green flashing) at certain times.

Incorporating the latest sine wave sampling (SWS) and active sine wave mapping (ASWM) technology enables the unit to monitor and control three critical performance and safety functions.

Low voltage threshold (LVT) eliminates the risk of the optimised voltage falling below a minimum target voltage. When it detects the voltage has recovered and stabilised it automatically switches back to 'save' mode.

High current threshold (HCT) protects against over current. The unit will automatically detect this and remains in a temporary 'bypass' mode until the over current reduces.

Optimum switching threshold (OST) by constantly mapping the sine wave, the Voltage Optimiser will only switch at the optimum point, which eliminates any interruption to the supply voltage. It also eliminates spikes and transients.

The Voltage Optimiser reduces the incoming supply voltage by a fixed amount.

Purpose

The purpose of the Voltage Optimiser is as follows:

- Reduces energy waste and carbon footprint by reducing the power consumed by appliances.
- Contributes to Government funded targets on carbon reduction.
- Customer savings start immediately.
- Substantially extends the life of appliances and lighting & protects sensitive electrical devices from damage.

Important Points

- Familiarise yourself with this manual and the Voltage Optimiser before installing and/or operating the unit. In particular, ensure that you have read the WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS section.
- Contact your electricity supplier before breaking any main fuse seals during the installation of this product. If necessary, ask the supplier to install an isolator switch.

WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS

These warnings and cautions must be observed when installing/operating the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit.

WARNING 1

ELECTRICITY CAN KILL.

INSTALLING THIS EQUIPMENT WITHOUT ISOLATING THE SUPPLY IS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS BUT CONTRAVENES THE ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS 1989.

WARNING 2

MAKE SURE THAT MAXIMUM CONDUCTIVE CABLE SURFACE IS IN CONTACT WITH TERMINALS AND THAT THEY ARE SECURE. LOOSE CONNECTIONS CAN CAUSE ARCING THAT MAY RESULTS IN HEAT DAMAGE TO COMPONENTS AND ULTIMATELY FIRE.

WARNING 3

THIS WORK MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY A QUALIFIED, REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN.

CAUTIONS

- Do not mount with the transformer lowermost, as heat will rise from it into the unit. Allow a minimum of **100mm** clearance around the unit for ventilation. Failure to observe these requirements may result in overheating and possible damage to some of its components.
- Make sure the installation location is clean, dry and ventilated to prevent any current leakage.
- The unit must never be covered.
- The Voltage Optimiser is compatible with Solar PV installations however the electrical connection method MUST be in accordance with the scheme outlined in figure 2.

Installation

Typical Domestic Installation

The configuration of a typical domestic installation is illustrated in Figure 1.

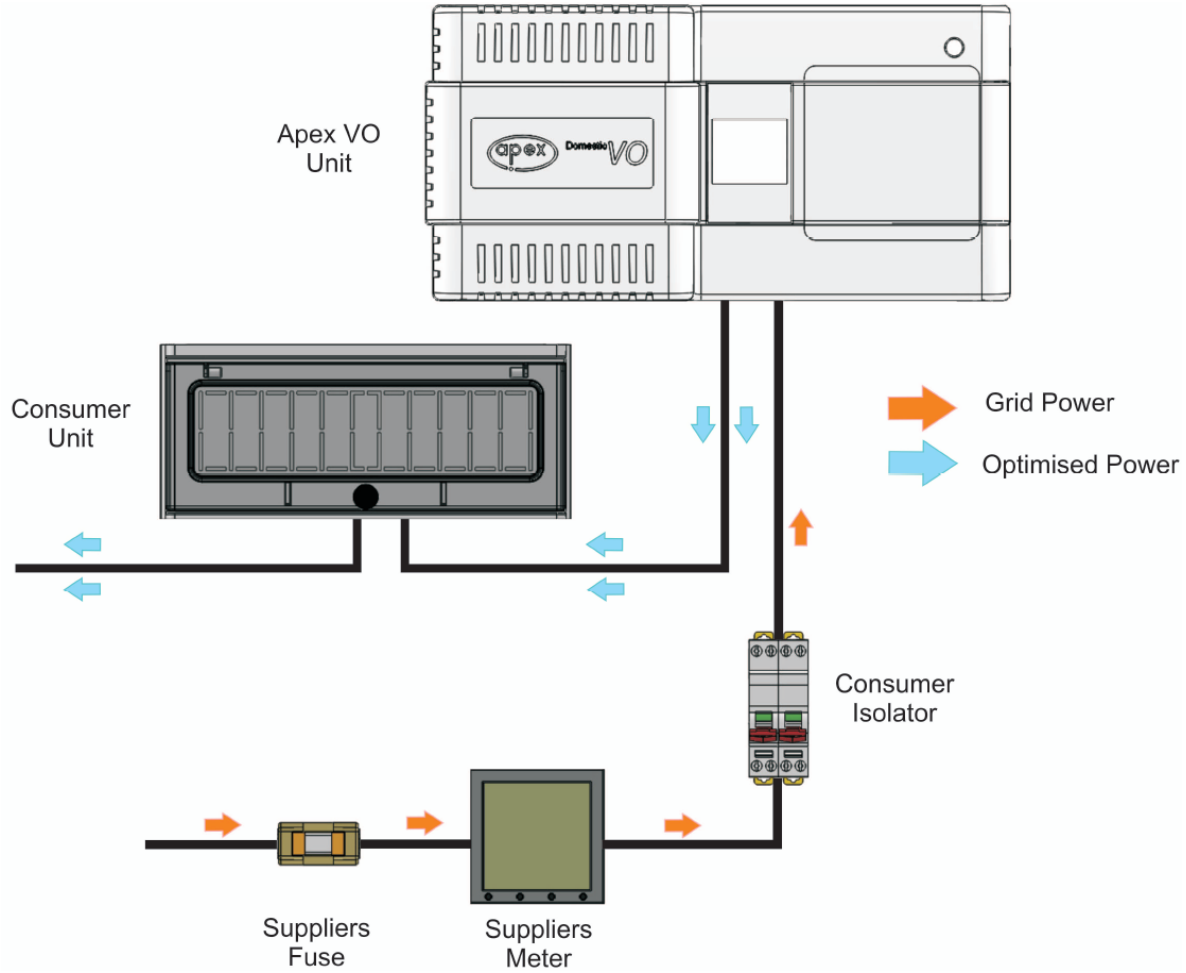

Figure 1: Typical domestic installation

Typical Integration with Domestic PV Installation

The configuration when integrated with a typical domestic PV installation is shown in Figure 2.

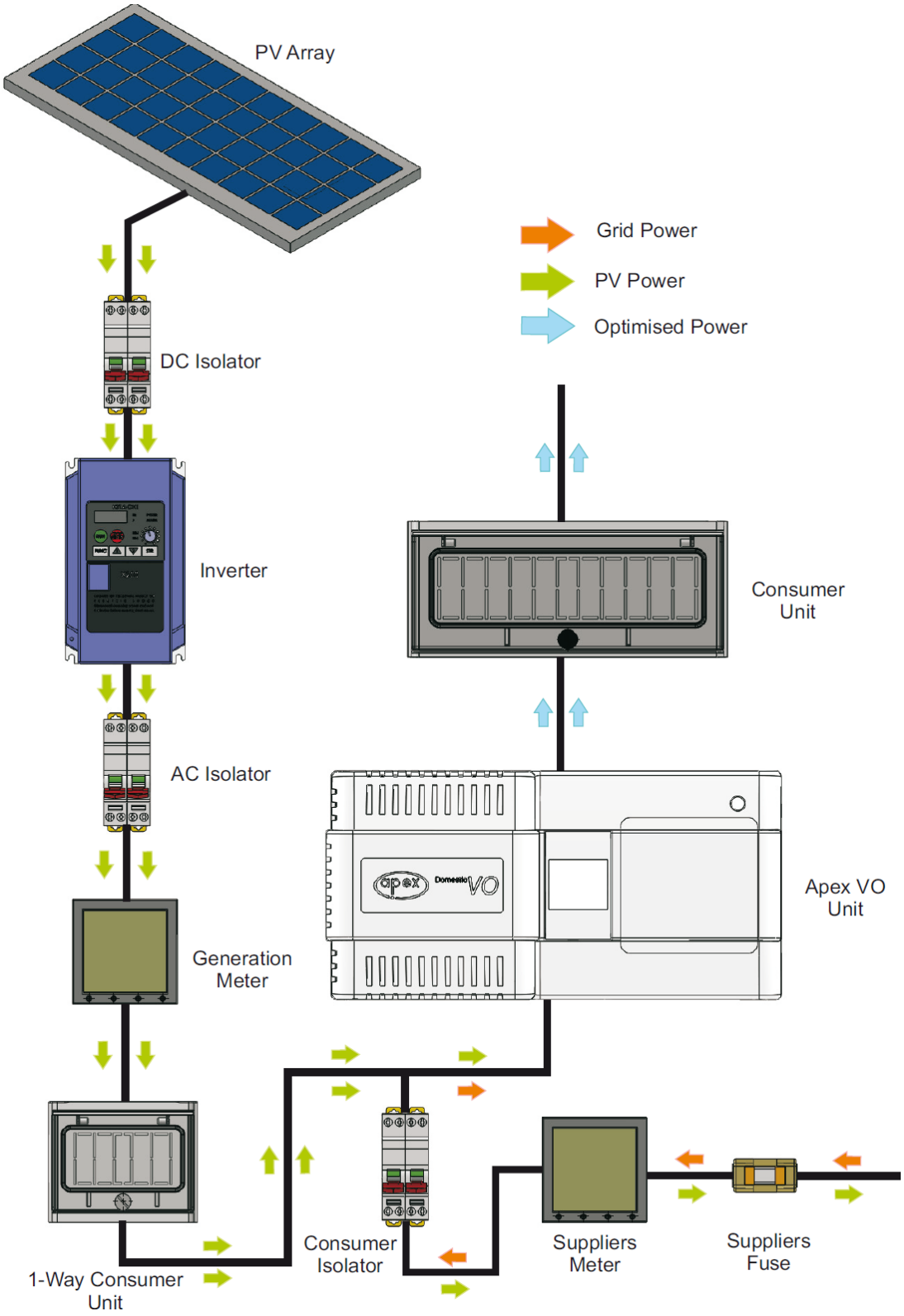

Figure 2: Typical installation with domestic PV solar power system

Note: Before commencing with the installation:

- Make sure that you have the correct thickness and length of tails. Add together the total maximum design current of the circuits to be supplied by the optimiser. Calculate the size of the cable required; refer to Appendix 6 of the BS7671 On Site Guide;
- Establish how isolation is to be achieved if an isolation switch is not installed; check if there is an isolation facility on the meter. At the last resort, remove the supply fuse, usually a BS88 or BS371 cartridge type. If seals are fitted, notify the supplier and ask permission before you remove them;
- Make sure the unit is clean and undamaged prior to installation.
- Make sure all electrical connections are secure, retighten if necessary.

Installation Method

1. Remove the cover of the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit, which is loosely positioned in the box. The four cover screws will be loosely installed in their locations in the base frame.
2. Record the serial numbers of the main unit and the electronic circuit board on the warranty card that accompanies the unit.
3. Carry out visual wiring checks :
    a. Yellow PTC wire from the transformer must be connected to white socket on electronic board labelled JP2

    b. All neutral, live and earth terminations secured (pull test).

    c. Earth terminal block must not be touching the transformer case.

4. Secure the base to the wall as follows:
    a. Choose a location for the base unit of the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit, either horizontally or vertically on a solid surface in a convenient position for access and in a well-ventilated and dry location. Ensure the unit has a minimum **100mm** clearance all around for ventilation.

    If the unit is to be installed vertically, the transformer **must** be positioned uppermost.

    b. Measure and mark positions of four or five securing screws, according to whether the unit is to be mounted horizontally or vertically. The dimensions of the hole centres are given in Figure 3

    c. Drill appropriate size hole for either direct fixing into wood or the correct type of wall plugs for plasterboard, brick etc.

    d. Use M8 screws with wall plugs if appropriate. Leave the heads of the screws protruding sufficiently to locate in their relative location holes in the base unit.

e. Locate the base unit on the four M8 screws; if necessary, tighten the screws to prevent any movement of the base unit but do not tighten fully, as it should be made possible for the unit to slide in and out of position.

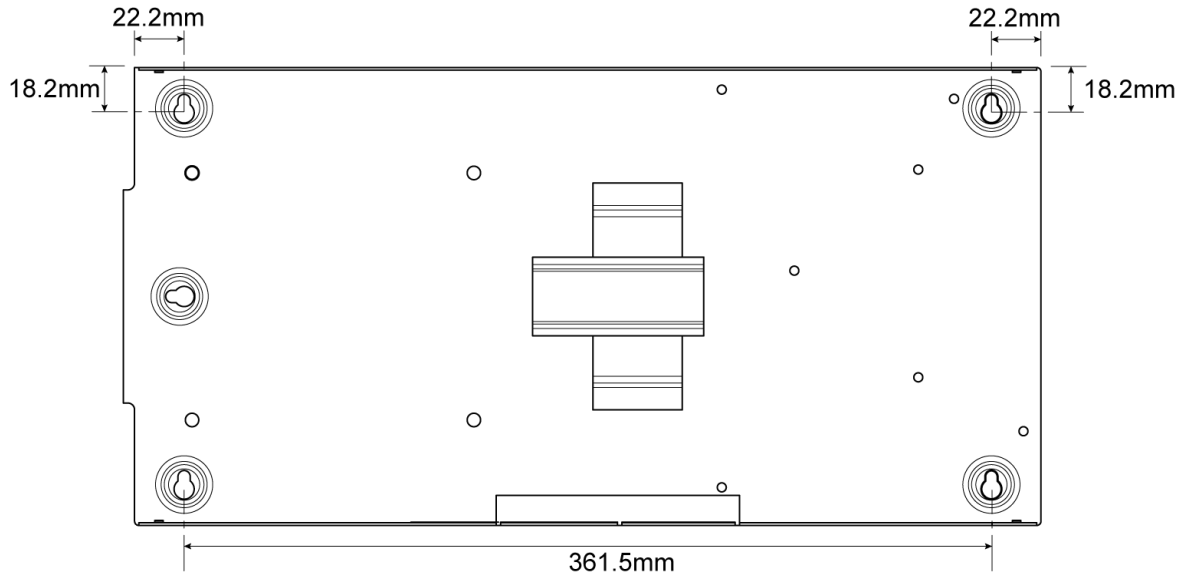

Figure 3: Dimensions of mounting hole centres

5. Isolate the supply to the premises at the isolation switch, meter, or by removing the supply fuse as applicable. If the supply fuse is removed, make sure that the fuse holder is covered with insulation material to prevent any possible contact with live terminals.
6. Remove the tails from the consumer unit, and connect directly to the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit

   or, if not possible due to inconvenient lengths, cut or use new longer tails.

   If it is necessary to connect longer tails to the meter, ask permission before you remove any seals at the meter.

   If applicable; connect the tails to the meter; make sure that the connection is in accordance with BS7671 Chapter 13 of the Wiring Regulations 17th Edition i.e:

   - That all the terminal screw is in contact with the conductive part of the cable.
   - The positive cable is coloured brown and the neutral blue at terminals.
   - There is no excess conductor exposed.

7. Connect the cable tails from the meter to the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit and the output cables as follows:
    a. If installing with 16mm csa cables cut the grommet. Refer to Fig 4 and Fig 5. If using 25mm csa cables they will be installed in the cut out, refer to Fig 6 for 25mm cable installation.

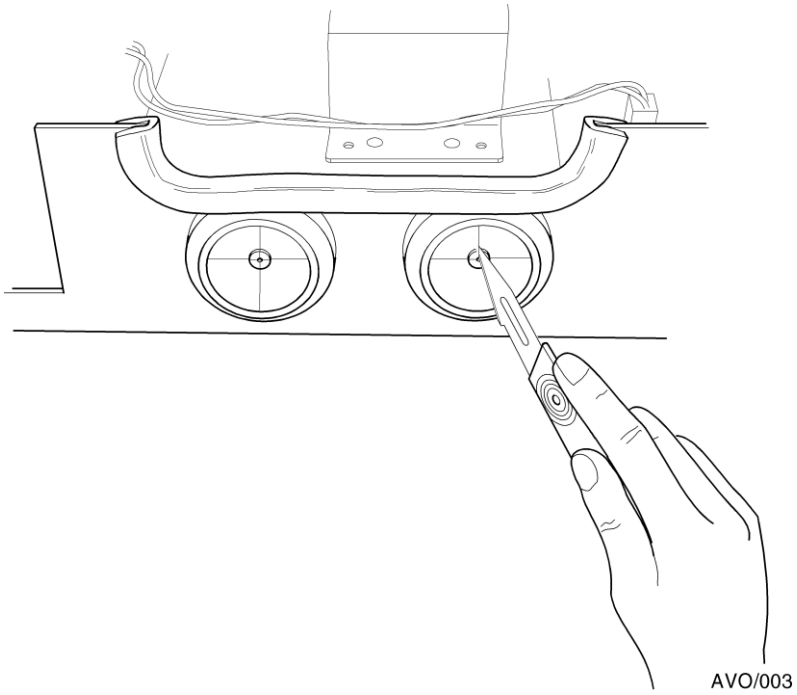

Figure 4: Grommet Preparation for a 16mm csa cable installation

Connect the cables from the meter to the terminals of the double pole isolator at the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit. Connect the output cables from optimiser at the din rail connectors. Refer to Figure 5 for 16mm cable installation and Fig 6 for 25mm cable installation.

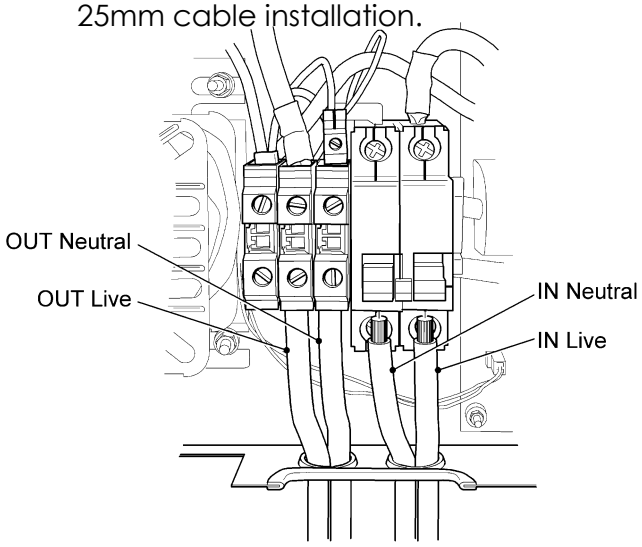

Figure 5: 16mm csa installation

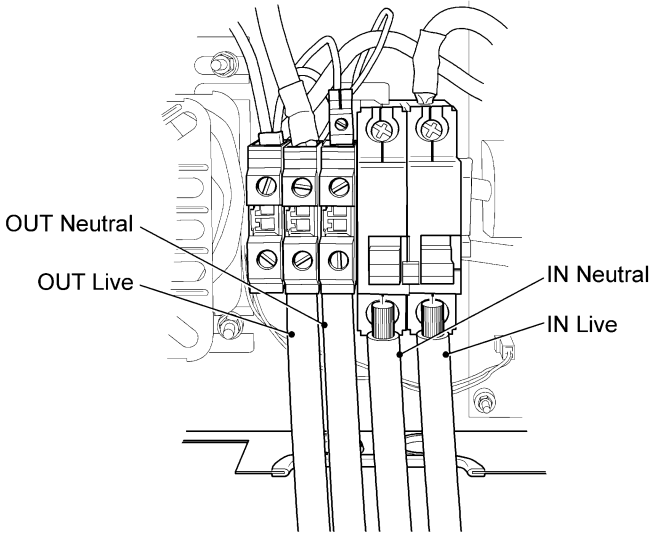

Figure 6: 25mm csa cable installation

Note: Armoured cable can be connected to the base unit by removing grommets and installing appropriate glands.

b. Connect the correct size earth bonding cable (refer to Chapter 4 of the BS7671 On-Site Guide) between the main earth terminal and the chassis of the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit, using a terminal lug crimped to the earth cable.

Note: Leave the main earth conductor (usually 16mm csa) connected between the main earth terminal and the consumer unit.

c. Carry out the following dead checks:

- Continuity of all cables
- Polarity of the live and neutral.
- Insulation between phase and earth.

d. Carry out the following live checks:

- Earth Loop Impedance, check it is within limits (max Zs) for the protective devices installed within the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit, refer to BS7671 17th edition chapter 4.
- Prospective fault current if not obtained by enquiry, make sure this does not exceed the breaking current of the unit.
- Input Voltage
- Output Voltage.

e. Record results obtained in steps c and d on, and include an installation certificate, refer to Appendix 7 BS7671 OSG.

f. If 25mm cable has been used, cut the "notch" in the cover at the cable location. Replace the cover and secure with the four screws; refer to Figure 7.

g. Re-instate the supply and turn on the Voltage Optimiser and leave it to go through its self-setting procedure.

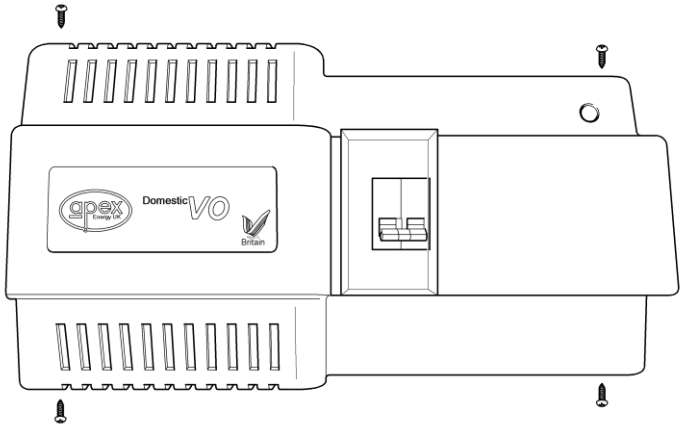

Figure 7: Cover securing screw locations AVO/008

Operation

The Apex Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit constantly monitors the input supply voltage and current and will automatically control the supply within the parameters of the product. The incoming supply will fluctuate constantly; the Voltage Optimiser will react as follows. A "click" noise may be heard from the unit as it changes state; this is normal. The transformer used to reduce the incoming voltage will get hot during " save mode" this is normal, and you may feel convected warm air coming from the upper air vents.

There are 2 LED lights, (see fig 8) one green and one red that can be seen through the clear perspex window. These lights in conjunction with the *Status Indications* section of this user guide will explain what state the voltage optimiser is in.

All operations will occur automatically, determined by the voltage optimiser ECU.

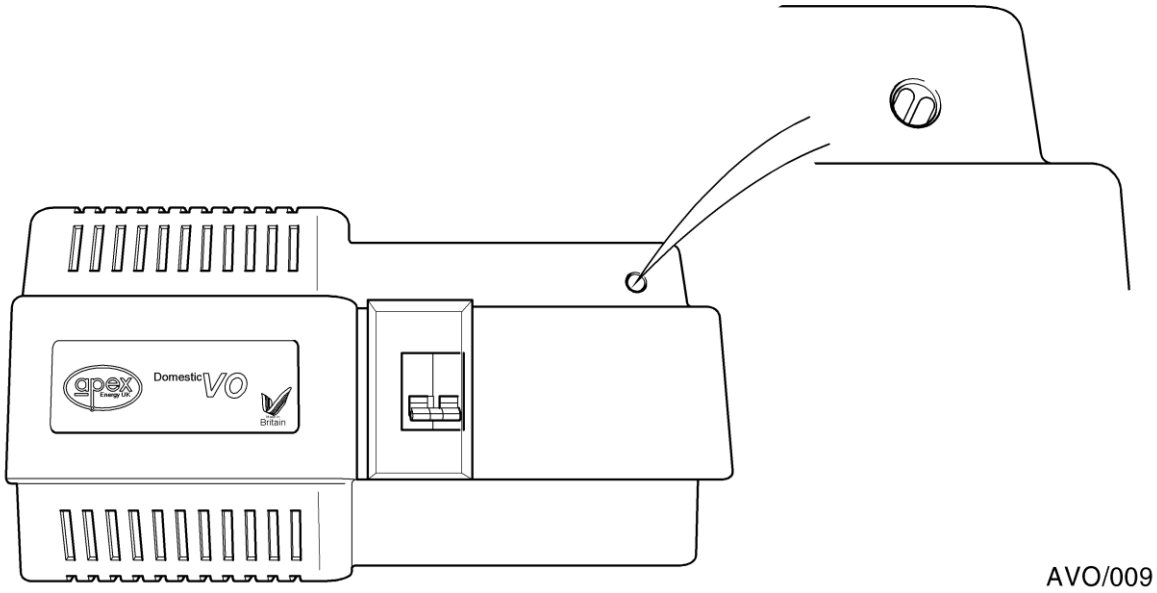

Figure 8: Optimiser status indicator LED's

Under Voltage

The incoming supply will fluctuate constantly; where a risk of under voltage exists, the Voltage Optimiser will automatically revert back to mains voltage.

Over Current

Should the demand exceed the 40A continuous rating of the Voltage Optimiser, the transformer is rated to allow an over current for approximately 30 minutes, after which time if the over current has not returned to its rated level the device will automatically revert to bypass.

Over Temperature

Depending on the load conditions and the ambient temperature the voltage optimiser contains several over temperature protection devices. These are designed to prevent the unit being damaged. Should this occur the unit will automatically switch into bypass mode until the unit has cooled sufficiently to automatically revert back to save mode.

No Load

Where the demand from the installation falls to a level below 0.5A, typically when the dwelling has no appliances on, the Voltage Optimiser will automatically revert to Ultra Low bypass mode.

The operating status of the Voltage Optimiser is indicated by two LED's in the small circular indicator window. Refer to figure 8

Bypass Mode

This mode is automatically selected by the Voltage Optimiser for reasons, either of savings or for reasons of protection. This mode means that the supply voltage to the house will continue and will not be interrupted; however the Voltage Optimiser is not reducing the voltage at this time.

The Voltage Optimiser will intelligently decide when it is the optimum time to switch into and out of "Save Mode" so there is no need to be concerned if the flashing green light is on; it merely indicates that the total load on the house at that time is not sufficient to warrant the Voltage Optimiser being on.

Status Indications

The status indicated by the LEDs is described in the following table. A graphical representation of this is given in Figure 9.

Green LED	Red LED	Status	Description
Constant	Off	Save Mode	The unit is working normally and in Save Mode.
Flashing	Single Flashing	Internal Testing	The unit is conducting internal tests (this will typically occur following a power outage). The unit will revert to "Save Mode" once completed.
Flashing	Off	Bypass Mode	The unit has reverted to "Ultra Low Bypass Mode" due to the dwelling load being too low to allow any savings to be made. The unit will revert to "Save Mode" when conditions allow.
Flashing	Single Flashing	Bypass Mode	The unit has reverted to "Bypass Mode" due to a temporary under voltage. Once the voltage increases to specification levels the unit will automatically revert back to "Save mode".
Flashing	Double Flashing	Bypass Mode	The unit has reverted to "Bypass Mode" due to a temporary over current (60A). Once the current drops below 60A the voltage optimisation device will automatically revert back to "Save Mode".
Flashing	Triple Flashing	Bypass Mode	The unit has reverted to "Bypass Mode" due to a temporary over temperature. Once the unit temperature drops to specification levels the voltage optimisation device will automatically revert back to "Save Mode".
Off	Continuous Flashing	Unit Shut down	The unit has shutdown either because the Incoming voltage has exceeded 270V OR the Unit has become too hot OR the unit has exceeded its 100A maximum load. Switching the main Isolator off then on again should re set the unit. Please note that there may need to be a time delay before the unit will reset if it tripped due to over temperature.

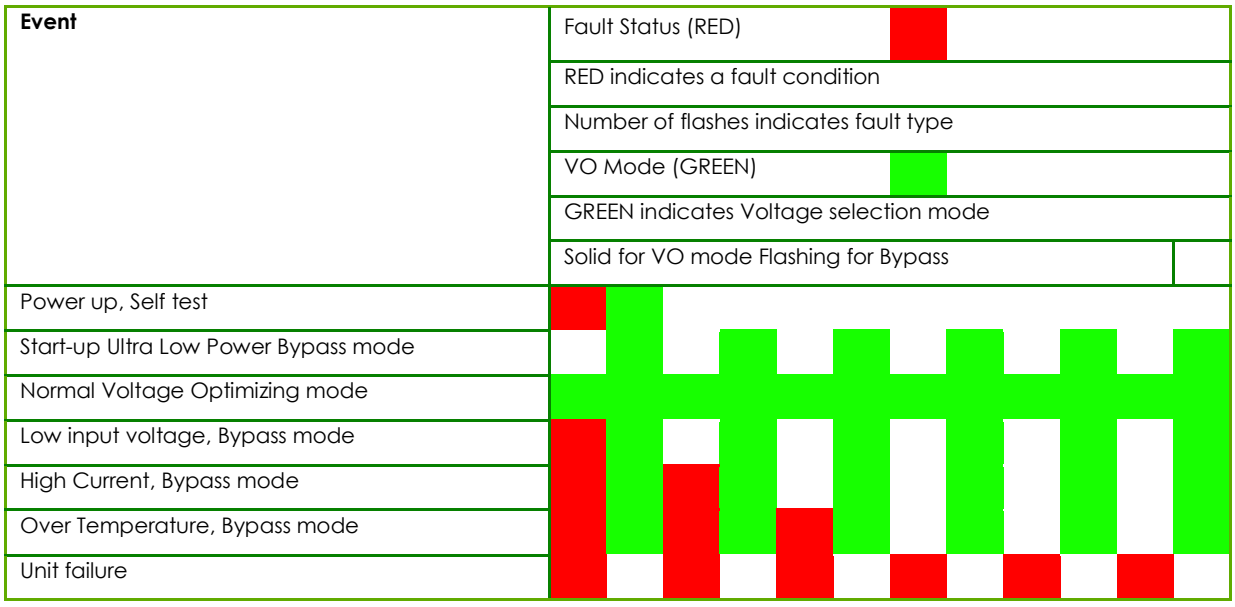
Event
Fault Status (RED)
RED indicates a fault condition
Number of flashes indicates fault type
VO Mode (GREEN)
GREEN indicates Voltage selection mode
Solid for VO mode Flashing for Bypass
Power up, Self test
Start-up Ultra Low Power Bypass mode
Normal Voltage Optimizing mode
Low input voltage, Bypass mode
High Current, Bypass mode
Over Temperature, Bypass mode
Unit failure

Figure 9: Graphical presentation of status indicators

Troubleshooting

WARNING 4

ELECTRICITY CAN KILL. TROUBLESHOOTING THIS EQUIPMENT WITHOUT ISOLATING THE SUPPLY IS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS BUT CONTRAVENES THE ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS 1989.

WARNING 5

TROUBLESHOOTING THAT REQUIRES THE REMOVING OF INSULATING COVERS MUST ONLY BE PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN.

CAUTION

Removing the cover of the Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit without contacting Apex may invalidate your warranty.

Loss of Power Both LED not lit on Optimiser	Consult supplier to check if supply power has been cut. Check visually cable from meter to optimiser only qualified electricians should carry out further checks or attempt to reconnect cables.
Optimiser Unit Failure Red LED continuously flashing.	Contact your Apex supplier

Warranty

The Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit is guaranteed for one year from the date of purchase. The installer will record the serial numbers of the Voltage Optimiser and the circuit board on the warranty card that you must send to Apex to increase your warranty to three years.

Apex Energy UK
St. Johns Road
Meadowfield Ind. Est.
Durham
DH7 8RJ

Technical Specification

Incoming Voltage	232V – 253V
Outgoing Voltage	214V – 235V
Frequency	50 / 60Hz
Humidity	85%
Ambient Temperature	-10 to +40°C
Efficiency	>99%
Insulation Class	BS2757 120 degree maximum
Cooling	Case is naturally ventilated
Voltage Surge	3.3kv
Breaking Current	10kA
Operating Current	Continuous Maximum current = 40A Limited Maximum Current = 60A Maximum By-Pass Current = 100A
Dimensions	H = 210mm W = 410mm D = 140mm
Weight	12kg

INSTALLATION & USER MANUAL

Domestic Voltage Optimisation Unit

Made in Britain

Designed, developed and manufactured in the UK by

Apex Energy UK
St. Johns Road
Meadowfield Ind. Est.
Durham
DH7 8RJ